Alternative Politics: The German Green Party

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Title: Alternative politics: the German Green Party
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Abstract: The Green Party's political success in Germany spearheaded the 1980s "green wave" in other West European democracies. Despite their defeat in 1990, the Greens still hold the balance of power in Germany and stand a good chance of making a comeback in the 1994 elections. This book is a comprehensive account of the organization, ideology and political style of the party. It examines intra-party political culture, the social profiles of voters and party activists and the party's place in the New Politics. Comparing the Greens to established parties, the book tries to give a full account of the German party system, and assesses the adaptability of both types of party in the new Europe.

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History

The German Polity. By David P. Conratd. New York: Longman, 3rd edn. 1985. Pp. XIX+ 281. In many ways, it recalls the German Greens party 30 years ago: they were not only the advocates of ecological and pacifist policies but also wanted to change the relationship between citizens, movements and institutions. The MSS is pursuing the same issues, but doing so while carrying much greater responsibilities and more difficulties due to the political inexperience of the majority of the party's MPs and activists. The German Greens have been trailblazers for ecological movements around the world. But since the 1980s they have become increasingly conservative — and remain an opposition party. The alternative agenda and informal style quickly attracted leftist veterans from the 1968 European protest movement. Adopting a phrase coined by one of its founding leaders, Petra Kelly, the Greens described themselves as the "anti-party party." Joschka Fischer was sworn in as environment minister in the state of Hesse in 1985, wearing his sneakers. With German reunification, the West German Greens merged with the East German protest movement "Bündnis 90". But the party never garnered much support in the former GDR. Emma Sammet from Green Youth believes she has an answer: "Even the many people who reject AfD (Alternative für Deutschland – Alternative for Germany, a right-wing populist and Eurosceptic political party in Germany), would easily wave the German flag". You don't even need alcohol to make harmless consumption (patriotism) evolve into destructive addiction (nationalism). It seems that Green Youth definitely consists of professional, ass-kicking psychologists. That's why Mrs. Sammet relies on her proper understanding of national sentiments: "Patriotism and nationalism are offered a huge publ